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CONSTITUTION  
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AND  
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BY-LAWS

OF THE

National Amalgamation

.... of ....

Textile Operatives



ORGANIZED JANUARY 14, 1916.

THESE RULES WERE ADOPTED AT THE  
CONVENTION HELD MAY 27, 1916.



LEEDHAM & Co. 217 POCASSET ST  
1916.



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# PREAMBLE

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We believe the time opportune when the textile operatives of the United States should become thoroughly organized in a strong organization, and become banded together for the mutual protection against the combination of capital. Past experience has shown us that a lack of interest taken by the textile operatives in standing aloof one from the other has been detrimental to our interests as wage earners. The alarming development and aggressiveness of capital, and its efforts to crush the worker into subjection leads us to the necessity of becoming more firmly united, that we may receive a full remuneration for our labor.

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# OBJECTS

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1. The objects of this Amalgamation are first, to establish and maintain as far as possible a uniform rate of wages upon as high a standard as possible consistent with the true interests of trade as affecting the textile operative.

2. To protect wage earners from illegal or unjust reductions in their wages; unjust treatment of whatever nature that the unfair employer will endeavor to subject them to.

3. To secure to all workers the full enjoyment of the wealth they create, and sufficient leisure in which to develop their intellectual, moral and social faculties.

4. To secure all the benefits of recreation and pleasure of organization—in a word, to enable workers to share in the gains and honors of civilization.

5. To protect, educate and elevate by all legal means the national textile operatives of the United States.

6. To use our best efforts to secure by all legal means all reasonable labor legislation affecting textile operatives, especially the women and children of our states. And furthermore, to use our utmost endeavors to organize all textile operatives to secure unity of action, as the injury of one is the concern of all.

# RULES

Rule 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the NATIONAL AMALGAMATION OF TEXTILE OPERATIVES.

Rule 2. Officers of Organization. The government of this organization shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and (10) ten members who shall constitute an Executive Council, who shall exercise a general control over its affairs and property.

Rule 3. Nomination and Elections of Officers. The nomination and election of officers and members of the executive council will take place at the regular annual convention held on the first Monday in May of each year. The President and Secretary shall remain in office until their successors are elected and installed, but not being elected as delegates from their local, shall not have any vote in convention. The following officials shall serve from different locals: President, Vice-Presidents (3), Secretary, Treasurer.

Rule 4. Duties of the President. The President shall preside over all conventions and Executive Council meetings. He shall give equal privileges to all members in discussing any subject, and shall allow no member to speak more than twice on the same question, except the mover of the motion. In all cases he shall insist on the laws being strictly and impartially enforced. In the absence of the President, the first Vice-President shall Preside, and in the absence of the Vice-Presidents a president pro-tem shall be appointed by the delegates in convention.

Rule 5. Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall collect all money that is due the Amalgamation of Textile Operatives and pay the same over to the Treasurer, receiving his receipt for the same. He shall affix his signature and the seal of this Amalgamation on all official documents when necessary, and shall send in circular form a record of the proceedings of the convention as soon as possible to the respective locals affiliated with this Amalgamation, and to provide all local secretaries with suitable blanks to be returned to National Secretary showing number of members of the different locals at the end of March 31, June 30, Sept. 30, and Dec. 31 of each year. The Secretary shall at all times be on the investigating committee along with the President of this Amalgamation.

Rule 6. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary all moneys belonging to this Amalgamation, and keep a correct account of the same in a book provided for that purpose. He shall preserve all deeds, documents, etc., and shall produce all records, receipts and books for the inspection of the auditors, holding such money as the council deems advisable, and give such security for the faithful performance of his duties as the council may direct.

Rule 7. Place of Convention. The place of convention shall be named by a previous convention, location of special conventions to be named by the Executive Council.

Rule 8. Non-payment of Per Capita tax. Any local union failing to pay its per capita on their full membership enrolled on the first week of February, May, August and November of each year, shall be suspended from all ben-

efits until said arrears are paid up, and stand suspended for a period of three months. The Secretary must notify all locals at least fifteen days before the tax is due.

The per capita tax from all Unions affiliated with this Amalgamation, is two and one half ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) cents per member per quarter March 31, June 30th, Sept. 30, and December 31, and payable on or before the first week in February, May, August, and November.

Rule 9. Trade Disputes. Every local union affiliated with this Amalgamation having any grievances with their employers, shall try and settle their dispute without resorting to a strike, and failing to have their grievances remedied, shall notify the President and Secretary of this Amalgamation, who shall investigate promptly, and after investigating said grievance and not being able to affect a settlement, they shall have the power to summon the Executive Council, who shall inquire into such grievances, and if satisfactory evidence is produced they shall have the power to order said strike, and they shall receive such benefits as the general laws provide; but under no circumstances shall any strike be recognized that has not been authorized by the Executive Council. The officers shall see that this rule is strictly enforced.

Rule 10. In case of a strike brought about or recognized by this Amalgamation, the Executive Council shall have power to assess each local's treasury such amount per week according to such local's membership, beginning the quarter previous to the strike, as shall meet the requirements of the case, but at no time shall the assessment exceed ten cents per member per week. The assessment shall be placed on the locals affiliated two weeks



from the time said strike was endorsed.

Rule 11. In the event of a local union striking, they assume all financial responsibility for the first four (4) weeks, providing the Amalgamation does not endorse the said strike at its inception. At the end of said four (4) weeks the Amalgamation shall assume responsibility if, after an investigation, they find the local union was justified in striking.

Rule 12. Grants, and how they are to be made. The Executive Council shall be empowered to make grants when any local union's members are out on strike (provided they have complied with Rule 10), to such amounts as they may deem necessary.

Rule 13. Removal and Transfers. In event of any member removing from one district to another, where a local of this Amalgamation exists, said member, if they think proper, may be transferred to the same on the production of their clearance card, subject to the rules of the home local.

Rule 14. Auditors. Three Auditors shall be elected at each convention. They shall audit the books of the Treasurer and Secretary. They shall examine all documents and vouchers, and shall report to the convention.

Rule 15. Charter Fees. All locals desiring to affiliate with the Amalgamation shall pay a charter fee of \$5.00 with the outfit. They will have no claim upon the Amalgamation until they have paid per capita tax for the two preceding quarters.

Rule 16. What Constitutes a Quorum. No business shall be transacted at any Executive Council meeting, unless a majority of the members be present.

Rule 17. Basis of Representation. The basis of representation to all conventions shall be one delegate for every two hundred members or fractional part thereof. None but bona fide members of the craft that represent their trade in the textile industry shall be allowed a seat in the convention. No delegates will be allowed a seat in the convention if they are married and have a child or children who are under his or her control, who are working at some trade or calling, unless such child or children are members of the craft in which they are employed., if such local exists.

Rule 18 Regarding Alterations of Constitution and By-Laws. It shall be the duty of every local union to discuss all questions pertaining to the alteration of the constitution and by-laws, and that said local union shall send a correct copy of these alterations or amendments which they wish to lay before the convention to the Secretary of this Amalgamation at least sixty (60) days before the convention convenes. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to have the same printed and supply every local union with a copy, so that they may instruct their delegates how to act.

Section 2. No person will be allowed voice or vote in any Convention of this Amalgamation, who has not been legally elected a delegate from his or her Local.

In the event of any Officer, or members of the Executive Council, resigning, or through any other cause, not being eligible to serve, the Executive Council ,are empowered to fill such vacancy until the next regular or special Convention.



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